

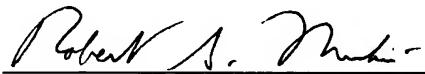
REMARKS

By the present Preliminary Amendment, the title has been set forth to ensure that it is correctly stated, original claims 1-10 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer and new claims 11-21 have been added. The new claims relate to subject matter within the scope of the original claims, but using language more in line with U.S. practice and without the presence of multiple dependency. For instance, new independent claim 11 relates to the subject matter of original claims 1 and 3 while using the transition term "comprising". New independent claim 16 relates to the subject matter of original claim 5 and the "molded product" subject matter of original multiple dependent claims 8-10 has now been separated into single dependent claims relating to certain aspects of the original claims. It is to be understood that the revisions to the claims are solely for formalistic purposes and not with regard to patentability and that applicants reserve the right to pursue additional claims relating to other aspects of the original claims or described in the specification.

Entry of the instant Preliminary Amendment and favorable consideration on the merits are respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner have any questions concerning the subject application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,
BURNS, DOANE, SWECKER & MATHIS, L.L.P.

By: 

Robert G. Mukai
Registration No. 28,531

P.O. Box 1404
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1404
(703) 836-6620

Date: October 20, 2004